



Fog Driving Tips

1. Reduce speed to allow safe stopping distance.
2. Drive with your headlights on low-beam. NEVER drive using only your parking or fog lights.
3. Avoid crossing traffic or busy intersections whenever possible.
4. Listen for traffic you cannot see.
5. Use windshield wipers and the defroster to improve visibility.
6. Be patient! Don't pass long lines of traffic in fog.
7. If visibility diminishes to the point that you can no longer proceed, don't stop in the traveled lanes. Attempt to utilize the closest off-ramp which will afford you a safe location to stop and wait for the fog to clear. Steer to the right and onto the shoulder (further to the right if safe and practical). Turn off your lights and remain stopped until visibility improves.
8. If your car stalls or is disabled, turn off your lights, exit your vehicle and move away from it to avoid injury.
9. Call the Caltrans Highway Information Network at 1-800-427-ROAD for the latest highway condition information.



California Highway Patrol

1382 West Olive Ave.
Fresno, CA 93728-2890
559-441-5441
Central Division

Caltrans

District 3
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901
530-741-5472

District 6
1352 West Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
559-488-4248

District 10
1976 East Charter Way
Stockton, CA 95205
209-948-3930

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FACTS & TIPS

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What
You
Can't See
Can KILL
You.



Central California's Operation Fog Program



The Danger of Fog

- Driving in fog is comparable to driving while wearing a blindfold.
- Fog creates the most dangerous driving condition: Zero Visibility!
- Statistically, fog related accidents carry the highest fatality rates.
- Unsafe driving speeds in foggy conditions drastically reduce safe stopping distances/ reaction times.
- Unsafe drivers do not compensate for reduced visibility conditions.
- Drive safe, slow down while driving in fog.

Whether you're traveling south to enjoy the warmer climate, heading north to walk among the majestic redwoods or you live here in the fertile Central Valley of California, you need to always be aware of winter driving conditions, especially when dense fog blankets our area highways.

This type of fog can catch you by surprise because it hangs in the low-lying valley bottoms - one minute you're driving along at 65 mph or faster with a clear view of the road and the next minute your visibility drops to less than 200 feet and the traffic ahead of you slows to a crawl. This dramatic change in visibility and the speed of traffic can lead to multiple-car pileups and severe injury and death. It is difficult for motorists to perceive speed in white out conditions.

Caltrans and the CHP began "Operation Fog" in 1991 in an effort to help make you aware of this unique winter driving condition in the Central Valley and to reduce the number of fog-related accidents.

This program not only relies on educational information like this brochure, but it also uses high-tech equipment to help you find your way when the going gets tough on Interstate 5 and State Route 99. There are roadside weather stations and visibility meters, electronic message signs and low-powered AM radio stations that gather information and alert you in advance of foggy conditions. Signs that estimate road visibility and a 3-2-1 countdown pattern of one way clear reflective pavement markers assist motorists to locate exit ramps in heavy fog.

Please do your part as well to avoid becoming an accident statistic. Reduce your speed and allow added distance between vehicles in front of you when driving in the Central Valley Tule Fog. It's also a good idea to phone the Caltrans Highway Information Network, 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) or tune your radio to a station, before leaving home to get the latest highway condition information anywhere in the state. If it's really bad out there, you might want to postpone your trip until the fog clears or leave earlier.



CHP Pace Program

When visibility is reduced to less than 500 ft., the California Highway Patrol implements their "PACE CAR" program. The CHP escorts traffic through dense fog when needed from Sacramento to Bakersfield. Officers utilize their flashing lights to lead vehicles at a safe pace through areas of heavy traffic extending from Yolo County to Kern County. Keeping traffic speeds at a reduced and consistent pace during these conditions will minimize accidents and maximize safe travel on our state roads.

CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES

Changeable Message Signs



These signs are programmed from the scene, highway construction and maintenance, and adverse weather conditions.



Visibility Sensors

New technology also gives management center workers the ability to "read" environmental conditions, with the use of roadside weather stations, visibility sensors and television cameras. The management centers monitor weather stations. These weather stations have sensors that measure highway visibility, wind speed and direction, air humidity, precipitation and pavement moisture.



Visibility Signs

These signs can assist motorists in determining the visibility in designated locations. Motorists can make better determinations regarding their speed and distance between the vehicles in front of them.